

REMARKS:In the Drawings:

Submitted herewith is a proposed drawing change to FIGS. 1A-2B, adding the words --(prior art)-- to the legend of each FIG.

Claim Objection:

The word --the-- has been inserted in front of the word "free" in claim 14, line 11 as originally submitted.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 13, 25

Claims 1, 9 10, 13, 25 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Dill (US 6,023,395).

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the references of record. Particularly, the recited structure contains a combination of layer and properties creating a head having greatly improved stability and performance in a lower overall stack thickness.

Claims 9, 10, 13, 25 depend from claim 1 and therefore incorporate the limitations of claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore are also believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 9, 10, 13, 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 9-13, 25

Claims 1, 6, 9-13, 25 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Pinarbasi (US 2003/0179513).

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the references of record. Particularly, the recited structure contains a combination of layer and properties

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creating a head having greatly improved stability and performance in a lower overall stack thickness.

Claims 6, 9-13, 25 depend from claim 1 and therefore incorporate the limitations of claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore are also believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 6, 9-13, 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 14, 18, 21-24

Claims 2, 14, 18, 21-24 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dill in view of Coffey (US 5,583,725).

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

Claim 14 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the references of record. Particularly, the recited structure contains a combination of layer and properties creating a head having greatly improved stability and performance in a lower overall stack thickness.

Claims 18, 21-24 depend from claim 14 and therefore incorporate the limitations of claim 14, particularly as amended, and therefore are also believed to be allowable over the art of record.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 14, 18, 21-24 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 15

Claims 3, 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dill in view of Coffey and further in view of Fujikata (US 6,051,309).

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

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Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 14, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 3 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 16

Claims 4, 16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dill in view of Coffey and further in view of Pinarbasi (US 6,295,187).

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

Claim 16 depends from claim 14 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 14, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4 and 16 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 17

Claims 5, 17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dill in view of Coffey and further in view of Terunuma (US 6,545,848).

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 1, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

Claim 17 depends from claim 14 and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 14, particularly as amended, and therefore is also believed to be allowable over the art of record as discussed above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 5 and 17 is respectfully requested.

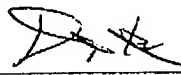
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Claims 7, 8, 19, 20

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates allowance of claims 7, 8, 19, 20. Claims 7, 8, 19, 20 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2587 (Order No. HSJ920030105US1).

Respectfully submitted,

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